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SECURITY INFORMATION

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MAR 24 1953

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant, Intelligence
Department of State**

SUBJECT: Possible Collapse of the Albanian Government

The following information, dated 14 March 1953,
is from a usually reliable individual with excellent
and highly sensitive contacts in the Italian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs. The following report was
previously distributed as preliminary dissemination
numbered PD-417.

1. The Italian Foreign Office believes that the collapse of
Albania may be a matter of brief time. There is no concrete evidence
to substantiate this belief. However, this has led to:

- a. A special meeting of the Italian Foreign Ministry policy
advisors on the evening of 14 March; and
- b. A special discussion of Albania's future as one of the
principal reasons for the recall of the Italian
ambassadors to Washington, Paris, London and Bonn for
a conference in Rome beginning 16 March and ending
18 March. Other agenda of the conference are Trieste
and the Balkan Pact.

2. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is highly fearful of
partition or territorial reduction of Albania immediately following
the possible collapse for the following reasons:

- a. Papagos' statement to De Gasperi during the latter's
visit to Athens that Greece was not prepared to
renounce any claims to northern Epirus although it
would not resort to force for revindication;
- b. Known Yugoslav claims in northern Albania coupled with
the Yugoslav origin of recent disorders in Albania; and
- c. The historic tendency of Great Britain in favor of
partition of Albania.

3. The Italians rigidly sustain the necessity of preserving the
territorial integrity of Albania on historical grounds but also for the

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additional reason of current cogency that consequences emerging from the partition of the first Satellite to fall would have disastrous effects on efforts to wean other Satellites.

4. Although Italians are apparently aware that the United States favors territorial integrity of Albania, they fear that a fail accompli of Yugoslav or Greek making would make any subsequent United States representation fruitless.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANS:

BY

CS DB-2466

cc: Office of Current Intelligence

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